



Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An aptamer having a length of between ~~12~~ 13 and 22 nucleic acid units, inclusive, and having a sequence which includes at least two G-rich regions selected from the group consisting of GGnG, GGGG, GnGG, nGGG and GGGn, where G is guanidine and n is any nucleotide, and wherein the nucleic acid units in the aptamer and the at least two G-rich regions are selected such that the aptamer reduces CD28 expression in an activated human T-cell.
2. (Previously Presented) The aptamer of claim 1 wherein at least two of the at least two regions are separated by two to seven nucleotides, inclusive.
3. (Original) The aptamer of claim 1 wherein at least two of the at least two regions are separated by three to six nucleotides, inclusive.
4. (Original) The aptamer of claim 1 wherein at least two of the at least two regions are separated by four nucleotides.
5. (Previously canceled)
6. (Previously Presented) The aptamer of claim 1 wherein the aptamer competes for a nucleic acid binding site of SP1.
7. (Previously Presented) The aptamer of claim 1 which competes for a nucleic acid binding site of an immune regulatory protein, wherein at least one of the at least two G-rich regions comprises GGnG, and at least two of the at least two regions are separated by two to seven nucleotides.
8. (Previously Presented) The aptamer of claim 1 which competes for a nucleic acid binding site of an immune regulatory protein, wherein at least one of the at least two G-rich regions comprises GGGG, and at least two of the at least two regions are separated by two to seven nucleotides, inclusive.

9. (Previously Presented) The aptamer of claim 1 which competes for a nucleic acid binding site of an immune regulatory protein, wherein at least one of the at least two G-rich regions comprises GnGG, and at least two of the at least two regions are separated by two to seven nucleotides, inclusive.
10. (Previously Presented) The aptamer of claim 1 which competes for a nucleic acid binding site of an immune regulatory protein, wherein at least one of the at least two G-rich regions comprises nGGG or GGGn, and at least two of the at least two regions are separated by two to seven nucleotides, inclusive.
11. (Original) The aptamer of claim 1 comprising the sequence 5' TTG GAG GGG GTG GTG GGG. 3' (Seq. Id. No. 4).
12. (Original) The aptamer of claim 1 comprising the sequence 5' GGG GAG GAG GGG CTG GAA 3' (Seq. Id. No. 5).
13. (Original) The aptamer of claim 1 comprising the sequence 5' GGG GTG GTG GGG 3' (Seq. Id. No. 13).
14. (Original) The aptamer of claim 1 comprising the sequence 5' TTG GAG GGG GAG GAG GGG 3' (Seq. Id. No. 7).
15. (Original) The aptamer of claim 1 comprising the sequence 5' TTG GAG GGG GAG GTG GGG 3' (Seq. Id. No. 8).
16. (Original) The aptamer of claim 1 comprising the sequence 5' GGG TTG GAG GGG GTG GTG GGG 3' (Seq. Id. No. 6).
17. (Currently amended) A method of medicating an isolated immunocompetent cell, comprising administering to the cell an aptamer according to claim 1 at a concentration effective to reduce CD28 expression.
18. (Previously canceled)

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17 wherein the immunocompetent cell is from
~~in~~ a patient suffering from a graft vs host response.
20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17 wherein the immune competent cell is from
~~in~~ a patient suffering from an autoimmune disease.
21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the autoimmune disease
comprises rheumatoid arthritis.
22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the autoimmune disease
multiple sclerosis.
23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the autoimmune disease
comprises lupus erythematosus.
24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the autoimmune disease
comprises insulin dependent diabetes mellitus.
25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the autoimmune disease
comprises psoriasis.